

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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April 11, 1997      LB 23, 374

check in, and I believe everybody's present. The question before the body is, shall LB 23 be advanced? All of those in favor vote aye. Opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 23.

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 23 advances. We've had a request from the introducer to pass over LB 875. Raise the call. Mr. Clerk, LB 374.

CLERK: Mr. President, 374, introduced by Senator Preister. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 15 of this year, at that time referred to the Natural Resources Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Preister, to open on the bill.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. This is a bill that we have been working on for some time and I want to start by thanking the committee for all the work that they've put in to the bill. Basically, LB 374 would provide for implementation of federal legislation. On October 17th, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, SARA Title III establishing emergency planning and community right to know requirements. Nebraska has been carrying out the federal requirements through executive order since 1987. LB 374 places the federal language in state statute and establishes the Nebraska Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act, otherwise referred to as NEPCRA. The state language clarifies the respective duties of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, along with establishing the membership of the State Emergency Response Commission and local emergency planning committees. The purpose of NEPCRA is to help communities prepare for and respond to emergencies involving hazardous substances. It requires businesses and other persons who have hazardous chemicals, toxic chemicals, or extremely hazardous substances at a facility to provide information about those chemicals to local and state officials; it's based on the concept that citizens are entitled to information, and that